

Jordan agrees to Moroccan proposal

TUNIS (Peta) — Jordan has agreed to a Moroccan proposal to convene the 94th ordinary session of the Arab League Council in Tunis Thursday, raising to five the number of Arab countries which have agreed to the proposal. The others are Iraq, Yemen, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar. In a memo delivered to the Arab League Headquarters by its permanent envoy to the league, Jordan said it agrees to the proposal to convene the meeting at the level of permanent delegates' provided that the gathering is limited to an opening session at that level. The Moroccan proposal, which called on all 21 members of the Arab League to attend the meeting, said that the gathering will remain open after the opening session to offer the opportunity to Arab foreign ministers to decide on Arab participation at the United Nations General Assembly session, which opened this week and to set a date for a session of the Arab League Council. Permanent delegates to the Arab League secretariat are expected to meet Monday to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

Iraq sets deadline for Kd exchange

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Sunday gave holders of Kuwaiti dinars 12 days to exchange the currency at which was to be paid for Iraqi dinars. A statement by Iraq's economic commission said each Kuwaiti dinar — worth 100,000 — was to be paid for one Iraqi dinar. The statement said the exchange rate for Baghdad's official exchange rate is 100,000 for its currency is just over \$3.2 to go by as the world's only a twelfth of that which is even before the invasion. The statement said the decision was made after "the merger of Iraq and Kuwait... and to prevent disruption in exchanging both currencies." It said banks have been ordered to start applying the new rule from Monday until Oct. 6, after which the Kuwaiti dinar "will be an illegal currency."

Iran may turn to Moscow for nuclear power

NICOSIA (R) — Iran criticised West Germany for refusing to allow completion of a nuclear power station and said it might seek Soviet help to build other ones. Cooperation with Moscow would be "a logical consequence of the unacceptable attitude of West Germany," the official IRNA news agency Sunday quoted Tehran's atomic energy chief Reza Amrolah as saying. Construction of the Bushehr plant was started by the West German firm Kraftwerk Union in the mid-1970s. All work except maintenance stopped after diplomatic ties soured following the 1979 revolution. Iraqi planes attacked the plant six times between 1984 and 1987 during the Gulf war. Iran, which has no operating atomic plants, agreed on nuclear power cooperation with the Soviet Union under accords signed in June 1989.

De Klerk in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — South African President F.W. de Klerk arrived Sunday with what he said was a message of hope for democracy in his country and support for U.S. leadership in the Gulf crisis. In the first visit of a South African head of state in four decades, de Klerk is to meet with President George Bush and members of Congress. "We are proceeding irreversibly on the road to a new South Africa, where justice, the guarantees of constitutional democracy and the rule of law will bring lasting peace and prosperity to all our people," de Klerk said in a statement at Andrews air force base near Washington after he stepped off a South African airliner.

Ozal files to U.S.

ANKARA (AP) — President Turgut Ozal flew to the United States Sunday for talks with U.S. President George Bush and other officials on the Gulf crisis. Ozal is expected to press for economic and military aid to offset Turkey's losses from an economic embargo on Iraq. Turkey's losses over a period of one year could be as high as \$7 billion, Turkish officials say. Ozal will meet Bush at the White House on Tuesday. He will also meet with Defense Secretary Dick Cheney and will receive a briefing from Colin Powell, head of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff.

Swiss vote for no new nuclear plants

GENEVA (R) — Swiss citizens voted this weekend to forbid the construction of nuclear power plants for the rest of the century but not to abandon nuclear power altogether. Voters in many traditional areas joined the anti-nuclear lobby in voting for a 10-year moratorium on building new plants, despite warnings of lower living standards and increased dependence on imported oil. "Nuclear energy is an economic absurdity with unlimited risks," Rene Longet, a socialist member of parliament, said during the campaign. The vote lasted several days and ended Sunday.

Many Bangladeshis prefer war risk

DHAKA (R) — Thousands of Bangladeshis still in Kuwait have ignored a call to leave, indicating they prefer the risk of a Gulf war to poverty in their homeland, a Foreign Office spokesman said Sunday.

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Iraq 'will destroy Mideast oil fields if Iraqis strangled'

'Iraq-Kuwait merger irreversible' ● 'Israel will be turned into something different'

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iraq said Sunday it would destroy all Middle East oilfields if its people were strangled by foreign forces assembling in the Gulf region.

The Iraqi leadership also said Kuwait's merger with Iraq was "an eternal decision" that was irreversible, and threatened that Israel would be "transformed into something different" if the United States provoked a military conflict.

"We will never allow anybody,

whomever he may be, to strangle the people of Iraq without having himself strangled," said a communiqué from the Revolutionary Command Council, Iraq's highest decision-making body, and the ruling Baath Party.

"The oil areas in Saudi Arabia

and in other states of the region, will be rendered incapable of responding to the needs of those who came to us as occupiers in order to usurp our sovereignty, dignity

and wealth," said the communiqué.

"The oil, the areas it is in and Israel will be transformed into something different from what they are now," said the statement.

"Israel will be included in all actions that affect the owners of the homeland in which the forces of evil and occupation have settled," it said, adding: "Then will be the flood."

The statement was issued after a joint meeting of the council and party earlier Sunday presided over by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The statement lashed out at the U.S.-led military buildup in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding waters that began after Iraq took over Kuwait on Aug. 2.

The troops buildup and subsequent sanctions imposed on Iraq were "reckless, odious and foolish behaviour," it said.

It warned that "a spark whether by

(Continued on page 5)

Gulf war would be short but deadly — French defence chief

PARIS (R) — If war breaks out in the Gulf it will be relatively short but deadly, French Chief of Staff General Maurice Schmitt said in an interview Sunday.

Schmitt told French television there would be a high casualty toll if war erupted because of the sophistication of the Iraqi army. He declined to give estimated casualty figures.

Discounting predictions of a protracted conflict, he said: "I believe if war breaks out it will be relatively short."

The general denied reports that French troops currently sailing for Saudi Arabia would be deployed far closer to the front line than their American counterparts.

"They will be neither behind nor in front of the Americans," he said, referring to the force of 4,200 men due to reach the Red Sea port of Yanbu by Oct. 1 and be deployed by Oct. 5.

French forces would be under

involving troops sent by 12 countries will be coordinated by the Saudis, he added. There has been concern in France over reports that its soldiers could come under U.S. command.

The Defense Ministry has refused to say where the French will take up position but a highly-placed official source confirmed reports from the Gulf saying the troops will be deployed in the Hafer Al Baten area in northeast Saudi Arabia.

In Toulon, the last of the men ordered to the Gulf were due to leave Sunday night, the Defense Ministry said.

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Senior U.S. army and marine corps officers have drafted contingency plans to mount ground assaults against Iraq from as many as four directions, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

Quoting unidentified military officials, the newspaper said the complex combat operation would require U.S. troops to cross the Jordanian desert and Turkish mountains to get to the Iraqi frontier.

The aim, the officials said, would be to prevent Iraq from massing all 140,000 members of its elite Republican Guard against a U.S. force attacking Iraqi troops in Kuwait.

The contingency plans for a multi-front war against Iraq were part of the military options being prepared for President George Bush should a United Nations trade embargo fail to dislodge Iraq from Kuwait and the administration decide to pursue a military course, the Post said.

The officials were quoted as saying the strategy of opening multiple fronts against Iraq would also attempt to exploit the "weakness" of its military supply systems.

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Iran rejects U.S. plan for Gulf 'regional security'

Tehran media highlight pro-Iraq sentiment

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran, the wild card in the Gulf crisis which the West hopes to play against Iraq, heaped scorn on calls for a new regional security arrangement. And an American-backed effort by Syria to persuade Iran not to puncture U.N.-imposed sanctions against Iraq appeared up in the air Sunday, with Tehran's hardline newspaper warning that Iran could "make or break" the embargo.

President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaking at a banquet for visiting Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, denounced what he called an "arrogant scheme" being promoted by the United States for a new security structure in the Gulf.

Political analysts in the Gulf say Western governments have been sending signals to Tehran that they would like to see Iran involved in some form of regional security arrangement.

Rafsanjani's remarks, reported by the Iran's IRNA news agency Sunday, came after he told Assad, on his first visit to Tehran since before the 1979 Islamic revolution:

"We should not allow foreign forces and the hegemonic powers who are all geared up to tighten their grip on vital oil resources, the Persian Gulf (and) the Red Sea... to remain in the region."

cooperate with regional countries to bring peace and security free from foreign intervention.

Tehran Radio said Assad flew to Mashhad, northwest Iran, on Sunday for a pilgrimage to the shrine of the eighth Shi'ite Imam Reza. He was due to return to Tehran later in the day for a meeting with Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a second round of talks with Rafsanjani.

Editorials in two Tehran dailies,

Kayhan International and Abrar,

underlined the conflicting political currents inside Iran's hierarchy over the Gulf crisis.

Rafsanjani, leader of the country's so-called pragmatists, is eager to re-build bridges with the West and is believed to favour abiding by the sanctions as his government has pledged.

But his anti-Western radical rivals,

incensed by the Western intervention in the Gulf, want Tehran to help Iraq break the embargo.

Iran has hinted that it will allow "humanitarian shipments" of food and medical supplies into Iraq for fellow Muslims in response to a request by Baghdad.

The English-language Kayhan International said that Assad's visit was focused on "the role Iran can play in making or breaking the U.S.-sponsored sanctions against the people of Iraq."

Noting his meeting with Baker, the

(Continued on page 5)

Prince Hassan visits U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday left Amman for New York on a working visit to the United States expected to last several days during which he will meet with U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Perez de Cuellar, who visited earlier this month for the Gulf crisis, had discussed with Jordanian officials the problem of the hundreds of thousands of foreigners passing through Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq.

To prevent this from happening, those concerned should pull out their troops, warplanes and naval fleets as soon as possible," it said.

"There can be no understanding under the threat of arms and punishment."

The statement said if Washington and its allies wanted to defuse the crisis, "they have to return to a specific idea which is that peace should prevail in the whole area and that rights should return to their legitimate owners, foremost among which are the people of Palestine."

Kuwait has thus been "restored to its people to be part of its original nation by an eternal decision from which there can be no retreat under any circumstances or conditions," the ruling council and party said.

Referring to Kuwait's former ruling family, Al Sabah, the communiqué said: "The blow dealt to what evil

was reckless, odious and foolish behaviour," it said.

Israel will be included in all actions that affect the owners of the homeland in which the forces of evil and occupation have settled," it said, adding: "Then will be the flood."

The statement was issued after a joint meeting of the council and party earlier Sunday presided over by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

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(Continued on page 5)

Combined agency dispatches

JORDAN HAS not been officially notified of any decision by Saudi Arabia to expel any Jordanian diplomat nor will take accusations carried by news agencies of spying seriously, a government spokesman said Sunday.

In an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) the press secretary of Prime Minister Mudar Badran said that the premier had not received official notification accusing any Jordanian diplomatic employee in Saudi Arabia of spying.

"Jordan would not benefit anything from such a practice. We also do not take seriously any comment to that effect carried by

the different news agencies," the press secretary said.

He pointed out that "Jordan has no intention to expel any Saudi diplomats from Jordan."

In another statement carried by the French News Agency (AFP), a foreign ministry official, who was not identified, said that the Jordanian embassy in the Saudi capital had also reported that it was not aware of any Saudi expulsion order.

The comments followed a report carried by the official Saudi Press Agency (SPA) late Saturday that diplomats from Jordan, Yemen and Iraq were ordered expelled.

The Saudi statement gave no details on the number of diplo-

mats asked to leave the Kingdom.

"In order to clarify the truth and the reality, we would like to point out that the Saudi authorities had noticed that those diplomats carried out activities which undermine the security of the kingdom and its safety and which are incompatible with the code of conduct and rules of diplomatic service," the Saudi statement said.

Baghdad said Saturday it was expelling the Saudi military attache, along with those of the United States, Egypt and seven European Community countries.

Both Yemen and Jordan, while condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, have opposed the buildup of U.S.-led foreign forces in the Gulf.

Levy and Modai press push for U.S. money

TEL AVIV (R) — Two Israeli cabinet ministers flew to the United States Sunday to ask Washington to help foot an estimated \$20 billion bill for settling Soviet Jewish immigrants.

But the visit by Foreign Minister David Levy and Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai comes as U.S. leaders wrestle with their own crisis over a budget deficit seriously exacerbated by the faceoff with Iraq in the Gulf. Last week Washington deferred an Israeli request for extra military aid.

Levy will meet West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher at the United Nations Monday, and officials said he might ask Bonn to help meet the cost of the influx because of the World War II.

Modai will similarly argue "historic responsibility" when he asks for aid from the U.S., Israel's main ally.

Modai told reporters before leaving that Washington should help pay because it had helped create the exodus. The U.S. had pressed for freedom to emigrate for Soviet citizens but put quotas on the number it would take in, he said.

Israel expects one million Soviet Jews in the next three to five years. The treasury estimates the cost of settling them at \$20 billion, well beyond its means.

Modai will meet Secretary of State James Baker and Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, as well as finance ministers attending the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Earlier this month Modai called on Washington to write off \$3.7 billion in Israeli debts after President George Bush said he would cancel \$7.1 billion owed by Egypt because of Cairo's stand against Iraq in the Gulf crisis.

"I don't understand the logic, certainly not the morality of the thing — he who is not paying his debts should be forgiven and who has been paying his debts throughout should be loaded with it," Modai said.

Modai said the write-off would save Israel \$400 million a year in interest and principal payments.

He rejected claims that it would harm Israel's credit rating.

"Four hundred million dollars per annum I'll take even with the risks involved," he said.

Modai declined to say whether he would again press for the write-off, which some of his own advisers oppose and U.S. officials and congressmen say stands little chance of approval.

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Gulf crisis is top item for U.N. debate

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — French President Francois Mitterrand is expected to condemn Iraq for invading Kuwait and holding foreign "hostages" when the 45th General Assembly opens its debate Monday.

Mitterrand will usher in a chorus of denunciation of Iraq as an international outlaw as the annual three-week cycle of speakers before the 160-member assembly unfolds.

As customary in the nearly half-century of annual debate, Brazil will provide the first speaker, newly elected President Fernando Collor.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will undoubtedly reinforce the attacks on Iraq when he speaks Tuesday, as will U.S. President George Bush, who addresses the assembly next Monday.

But Mitterrand will be the focus of attention Monday, due to French outrage over Iraq's alleged raids on European diplomatic compounds on Sept. 15.

France immediately called for an emergency meeting of the Security Council, which convened the next day and held a session that culminated in a unanimous denunciation of Iraq in the early hours of Sept. 16.

That resolution also warned Iraq that the Security Council would adopt other measures to punish Baghdad for its "transgressions" — which are expected to be passed at an extraordinary council meeting on Tuesday.

The council plans to adopt a resolution imposing an air embargo on Iraq, which would be the first time the world body ever levied such sanctions on a member.

Flights out of Iraq and Kuwait would be limited to those taking out refugees; inbound flights would be inspected, and would only be allowed to carry shipments of food or medicines approved by the Security Council.

Ershad launches Gulf push

cil's sanctions committee.

Other countries must deny Iraq-bound flights permission to refuel, land, or fly over their territory. Force may not be used to stop planes, but they can be intercepted and ordered to land.

Nations breaking the embargo would be subject to secondary sanctions. Iraqi ships in other ports may be impounded if they could be used to break the current naval embargo, and all Iraqi assets are to be frozen.

"I think this will be a genuine turning point in human history," said Brian Urquhart, the former under secretary-general in charge of peacekeeping, who retired in 1986. "This will be the test of whether collective security is a valid response to aggression."

At Tuesday evening's session, Shevardnadze will preside over the 15-member council, also attended by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd, Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and French Minister Roland Dumas.

The last time foreign ministers sat in the Security Council was in July 1987, when it adopted its peace plan for the Iran-Iraq war. Resolution 589. On that occasion, only the permanent five members and one other nation sent their foreign ministers. More are expected to attend Tuesday's council session.

The General Assembly, unlike the Security Council, has no enforcement powers. The tenor of the speeches in the General Assembly, however, and the resolutions it passes — particularly the consensus resolutions — are a powerful expression of the will of the world community.

Other speakers Monday will be the foreign ministers of Iceland, Seychelles, Poland, Argentina, Iran, Indonesia, Costa Rica and Guatemala, the prime ministers of Papua New Guinea and St. Kitts and Nevis.

Their effort is unlikely to sway Iraq from its takeover of Kuwait but Arab diplomats said the move was more welcome support for Arab states allied against Iraq.

"We hope Iraq will accept a peace settlement. But if there is no such settlement... it has to be resolved because Iraq's staying in Kuwait will not be accepted," Ershad said.

Bangladesh and Pakistan have each pledged 5,000 troops to the international military buildup in the Gulf.

Ershad, after talks with UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahyan, said Bangladesh would consider sending troops to any other Gulf state which requested help.

U.S. professor 'forgot' about his letter to King

CHAPEL HILL, North Carolina (R) — A professor, thrust into the spotlight by the televised response of His Majesty King Hussein to his letter, said Saturday he wrote to encourage the Monarch's peace efforts.

Edwin Brown, 61, a professor at the University of North Carolina, told a reporter he had almost forgotten about his letter to the King.

The quiet, classics professor said he had been "baffled for a while" by reporters questions when reached by telephone.

But after thinking for a moment he remembered: "It was a letter I wrote about a month ago to the King."

King Hussein, in a broadcast on Cable News Network Saturday, characterised the correspondence as "a thoughtful, perceptive, humane letter of encouragement from an American citizen."

He added "I shall... for as long as what remains of my life remember Mr. Brown's letter, and cherish his sentiments with gratitude."

Brown recalled, "I stressed in that letter that he must not despair of the decency and goodwill of the American people. We are not, as ordinary citizens, interested first and foremost in

keeping our oil supplies cheap. And that gets lost in the shuffle sometimes."

Brown said he wrote to King Hussein because "I identified with anyone who was in such a minority and boxed in by so many more powerful forces. And I know from my own experience just a simple letter of encouragement is very timely."

"So I sat down and wrote him in hope that at least one of his hard-working secretaries would see it and appreciate it," Brown said.

"It never occurred to me they would actually go all the way to the top," said Brown, adding he had not received any previous acknowledgement of his letter.

He also did not know King Hussein would mention the letter and he had not watched the television broadcast.

Brown, who is teaching a course on ancient Greece and has "never been east of Rhodes," said he has never met the King.

Brown said he has sent letters to French President Francois Mitterrand and the late Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. He also wrote to Soviet General Secretary Yuri Andropov just after the downing of Korean Air Lines Flight 007 in October 1983.

U.S. scales back Saudi arms deal to \$10 b

By Rita Beamish
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President George Bush's administration, facing congressional resistance to a huge military sale, has scaled back its initial Saudi Arabia arms package to around \$10 billion according to sources.

The White House has announced that it will send Congress a request early this week seeking a two-phase arms sale to the Saudis.

"We want to get something that people will clearly support," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "You want to package it such a way that it helps the Saudis and it's politically possible here."

The details were still being worked out over the weekend, but the price tag was expected to be in the neighbourhood of \$10 billion for that phase, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The package was being formulated with an eye towards assurance of congressional passage, after initial negative reaction from the lawmakers to a larger package, said one official.

Saudi Arabia agreed to the formulation that would involve an immediate package of "things that are readily available in the U.S. inventory", and more arms to be requested of Congress early next year, officials said.

The first phase is expected to include items that the administration can prove will have immediate use and delivery — such as Tom anti-tank missiles, Patriot anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems and F-15 fighter jets, according to sources familiar with the deal.

billion for that phase, according to two administration officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The meeting was mainly about the Cambodian conflict and U.S.-Vietnamese relations. But the plight of Vietnamese, who, like tens of thousands of other Asians, have been stranded in the Gulf conflict since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2 was also raised.

The United States and Vietnam have no diplomatic relations. U.S. law classifies Vietnam as an enemy and there is a long-standing U.S. trade embargo against Hanoi.

The Foreign Ministry official said Vietnam got a positive response from the United States but gave no details.

He said the stranded Vietnamese included about 200 female nurses. Most of the others were male construction workers, many working on an irrigation project in northern Iraq.

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He said the stranded Vietnamese included about 200 female nurses. Most of the others were male construction workers, many working on an irrigation project in northern Iraq.

The meeting was mainly about the Cambodian conflict and U.S.-Vietnamese relations. But the plight of Vietnamese, who, like tens of thousands of other Asians, have been stranded in the Gulf conflict since Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2 was also raised.

The United States and Vietnam have no diplomatic relations. U.S. law classifies Vietnam as an enemy

Lower House condemns Saudi's oil cut-off to Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday issued a statement describing Saudi Arabia's decision to cut off its oil supplies to Jordan as a way to deprive the Jordanian people and armed forces of the means to defend themselves.

The statement, the first reacting to the decision taken on Sept. 19, said that cutting off the oil supplies to Jordan, under the present difficult circumstances, was bound to deter Jordan from confronting Israel's aggression which "would come my moment once the order comes for attack from the command of the foreign forces now present on Arab soil."

The statement said that events in the Gulf were closely connected to the Palestine problem

and the ongoing Soviet Jewish immigration to Palestine, the Syrian Golan Heights and Lebanon. The statement condemned the idea of creating a foreign Zionist alliance in Arab land in collaboration with some Arab regimes.

The projected imperialist alliance is designed to help the United States to consolidate its hold over Arab wealth and the holy lands," said the statement. It said that the Lower House of Parliament calls the Arab World's attention to the danger inherent in such alliance and America's designs in the Arab region.

The statement issued by Parliament's emergency committee called on Arab countries in general and the nine states which refused

to support foreign intervention in the Gulf in particular to hold a general conference designed to find means of confronting foreign forces' occupation of holy land and to adopt a common Arab strategy to resolve the Gulf crisis within an Arab framework.

The statement appealed to the Arab parliaments to convene an extraordinary Arab Parliamentary Union meeting to discuss the situation and called on all Arab and Islamic organisations to mobilise their potentials to confront the danger of foreign occupation in the Gulf region.

Furthermore the statement praised Iran's position vis-a-vis foreign occupation of the Arab peninsula and the Islamic holy shrines and its declaration of a holy war to liberate the holy places from foreign occupation.

Parliamentarians form advisory committee to follow up relief works

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of seven parliament deputies Sunday acquainted themselves with the work undertaken by the voluntary societies and the Jordanian government in providing relief aid to the evacuees stranded in Jordan, and formed themselves into an advisory committee to follow on relief work and report to Parliament.

The group, led by Deputy Abdallah Ensour, met with Her Royal Highness Princess Basma at her office and were briefed on the assistance provided to the evacuees at their various centres, especially at the Andalous and Anaha camps, where they gather before their departure by air or sea.

The Parliament members expressed appreciation for the role played by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) and other organisations in dealing with the evacuees under the present circumstances and the collections and contributions they raise for solving their problems.

Head of a special higher governmental committee in charge of the evacuees affair, Salameh Hammad, presented a detailed briefing on the efforts carried out to alleviate the suffering of the evacuees and to repatriate them as soon as possible.

Apart from Ensour, the deputies included Issa Reimouni, Ziyad Al Shweiri, Mohammad Alawneh, Husni Shyah, Salameh Al Gbweiri and Tatta Al Shawan. They are joined by Walid Asfour and Hamdi Thahha in the advisory committee.

Princess Basma, chairperson of QAF's board of trustees, had earlier formed an emergency committee grouping QAF, Save

the Children Fund, and the Jordanian Scouts and Girl-Guide movements to recruit volunteers to work at the evacuee camps providing food, medical assistance, shelter and means of transportation.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Department (PSD) announced Sunday that 12,702 expatriates had arrived in Jordan through various border posts Saturday, but a total of 16,219 had left the country by air and sea the same day.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) said a total of 7,782 expatriates had left the country by air on Saturday aboard 34 unescorted flights.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) and various airlines are taking part in repatriating the foreign nationals in cooperation with various world relief organisations.

People rush for fuel

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians rushed on Sunday to fill their tanks with kerosene and fuel oil after Saudi Arabia abruptly stopped pumping crude oil to the Kingdom and the government said that it was studying rationing programmes.

"I took my car to the gas station this morning to fill it," Mohammad Najar, a businessman, said Sunday while he waited his turn at a Shmeisani petrol station.

Drivers reportedly had no problems getting all the petrol they needed but many reported a shortage of kerosene or diesel oil — two heating fuels.

"I went to five stations but could not find kerosene," Saeed Honrazi said. According to several gas stations contacted by the Jordan Times, there was a rush today for kerosene and fuel oil and "while they were at the station they of course filled their cars."

Foreign forces are in the Gulf for colonial motives — deputies

TAFILLEH (J.T.) — Foreign forces and their allies are present in the Gulf region for the sake of protecting Saudi Arabia from an alleged Iraqi aggression but rather for pure colonial motives, said two Parliament deputies Sunday.

Addressing a public rally in Tafilleh, Dr. Hosni Shiyab Salim Al Zoubi said that the United States was striving to control the world's destiny by laying its hands on the oil fields of the Arab World after the end of the cold war and the emergence of new strategic alliances in Europe.

They said that the United States was seeking to impose its hegemony on world countries with the purpose of protecting its selfish interests. "The emergence of Iraq as a major deterrent power in the Arab World has motivated Washington to move fast and invade the Gulf soon

after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait," they said.

"Arab masses from the Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean realise the real intentions and objectives of the United States and its allies and will do everything in their power to abort colonial plans designed to sow disorientation among Arab states," they added.

In Irbid students of Yarmouk University held a march at the campus to show solidarity with the Iraqi people and support for His Majesty King Hussein's stand vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis and his support for the Palestinian people.

Hundreds of students who took part in the march raised Iraqi and Jordanian flags together with portraits of the King and the Iraqi president as well as posters voicing support for the King and condemning United States policies and its massing of troops in the Gulf region.

American boy donates \$5 to refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following letter was addressed to the director of Jordan Television and Radio by a 9-year-old American boy, John Kelly:

Dear Sir,
I have seen the refugee situation in your country. I don't have much but I would like to send this \$5 to help you feed them. God bless you and them.

Yours truly,
John Kelly
Box 427
Coldwater, MS 38618

P.S. I appreciate King Hussein's attempts to bring peace in the Middle East. He is trying, everyone else is doing nothing. It says in my Bible: "Blessed are the peace makers."

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Department of Antiquities' Registration and Research Centre, Jabal Amman.
- Islamic book exhibition at the Yarmouk University.
- Plastic art exhibition at the Jordan Plastic Art Association.

Anani urges independent policy

AMMAN (Petra) — Dr. Jawad Al Anani said Sunday that the Gulf crisis had brought on the surface many issues, affecting the future of the Arab World and its inter-relations and common mechanisms.

In his televised programme broadcast Sunday, Dr. Anani said that methods of national or regional development had been based on ideas imported from the West, which affected the Arab economic policies and trends.

Anani said the absence of original Arab economic and developmental patterns have resulted in applying imported patterns, diverting the economic paths to serve the capitalist economies and other economic blocs.

Anani noted that pan-Arab organisations and institutions were formed to be mini-replicas of their counterparts in the world. The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development was formed in line with the World Bank structure, for example.

Anani said that imported economic ideas had led to increased attachment to the West, and called for abandoning such imported ideas and "adopting our own patterns and styles, using democracy as a means for maintaining the common Arab economy that can face the great challenges of the future."

Abdul Latif Arabyat

Brotherhood seeks speakership

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Muslim Brotherhood at the Lower House of Parliament has nominated its spokesman Abdul Latif Arabyat as their candidate for the House's speakership who Parliament convenes in an ordinary session next month.

Arabyat made the statement to journalists at the Parliament building Sunday.

Arabyat, who leads a group of 22 Muslim Brotherhood members in the House, said it was not important who would be elected speaker, but what really mattered was the achievement of further gains for the democratisation process in Jordan since "Parliament is an important institution with independent powers for enacting legislation and for playing an active role in the country."

The nomination of Arabyat raised to three the number of candidates running for the House of speakership in addition to the incumbent Speaker Suleiman Arar. The other two are Laith Shbeihat and Atef Boush from the independent Islamic bloc.

AMMAN (R) — Saddam Hussein stares out at Jordanians almost everywhere in Amman — from the back of buses and taxis, in groceries, public gardens and streets.

To many Westerners, the posters show the features of a monster. To most Jordanians the Iraqi president is a hero who will crush Arab enemies and liberate Palestinian lands from Israel.

Diplomats believe at least 90 per cent of Jordanians support Saddam. "You can't deny the vigour and sincerity with which pro-Saddam views are held," said one Western diplomat.

"The reason why opinion is so polarised around an uncouth dictator is that nothing has been done for the Palestinians."

"Yes, we support Saddam wholly and fully and will do everything in our power to help him out of his crisis," said Tawfiq Mahmoud, 19, an economics student.

"Victory will be achieved at the hands of Saddam," said Nada Al Dawayrat, a Palestinian mother of eight who has lost four brothers

"The government of Jordan is doing its utmost to implement sanctions."

Jordan is hostage of Gulf crisis — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said in a message addressed to the National Association of Arab American (NAAA) that the government of Jordan was doing its utmost to implement U.N. Security Council-imposed sanctions against Iraq.

"Jordan has a long and consistent record of upholding the principle that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible and this applies to conflict in the Middle East and ones further afield," the Prince said in a message, which was telecast Sunday morning.

The Crown Prince said Jordan now finds itself economically hostage to the Gulf crisis with its economy severely affected.

He said that the total cost of the Gulf crisis to Jordan had been estimated at more than \$2 billion annually.

Following is the text of the Crown Prince's address:

The Gulf crisis raises many important issues not only for the nations of the Middle East, but also for the world community at large. In talking to you this evening on the occasion of your annual convention, I would like to dwell on some of those issues as they relate to us here in Jordan and in our many good friends in the United States.

Jordan has a long and consistent record of upholding the principle that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible. This applies to conflicts in the Middle East and once further afield. Hence Jordan does not recognise the annexation of Kuwait.

Jordan is the only Arab country within its region that is neither oil-producing nor centrally-planned. Having an open economic system based on free enterprise and regional cooperation, Jordan finds itself economically hostage to the Gulf crisis.

The exposure of the Jordanian economy to recent events exceeds by far that of any other nation. This exposure has led to the three compartments of relief, sanctions and medium-term financial implications.

The total cost of the crisis to Jordan has been estimated at

more than \$2 billion annually. This represents more than half of Jordan's GDP which is about \$3.5 billion. Major OECD economies are estimated to suffer a loss of about four per cent of their GNP if the price of oil is maintained at \$30 per barrel through 1991. In view of the unparalleled impact on its economy, Jordan has applied, under Article 50 of the U.N. Charter, to the Security Council to enter into consultations aiming at solving the special economic problems arising out of the implementation of sanctions.

The Security Council committee established by Resolution 661 (Sanction Committee), has commended Jordan for the measures it has taken to comply with Resolution 661. The committee also requested the secretary general to undertake a full assessment with suggestions for appropriate remedies to the problems facing Jordan and resulting from measures it has undertaken to comply with Resolution 661, especially the question of oil supply. Furthermore, the committee appealed to all states to provide immediate technical, financial and material assistance to Jordan.

There is general agreement that Jordan's plight as a result of the imposition of sanctions against Iraq is unique. The government of Jordan is doing its utmost to implement the principle that the acquisition of territory by force is inadmissible. This applies to conflicts in the Middle East and once further afield. Hence Jordan does not recognise the annexation of Kuwait.

Jordan has led some to misunderstand public opinion and press articles in Jordan as being representative of official government policy. This is understandable in a region where freedom of expression and a free press are the exception rather than the rule. A further complicating factor for Jordan, in its efforts to explain its need to repatriate its people and to open the door for a better understanding of the aspirations of the different Arab states. It is not that Jordan is unaware of the threats and implications of the

current crisis to itself and its region. Rather, it is because of an acute awareness of such implications that Jordan is looking ahead and considering the fallout of the alternative methods for restoring the rule of international law. The ground work has to be prepared now to avoid decades of turmoil and suffering for future generations.

People, resources and ideology have become intertwined in a web of complex interaction throughout the Middle East. Palestinians in the intifada have next-of-kin in both Lebanon and the Gulf. Almost as many Palestinians reside in the GCC countries as in Israel itself or in Gaza. Demographic trends and water needs are moving along an explosive scenario throughout the region. Financial flows and regional economic realities provide a no-less paradoxical pattern. A viable pluralistic approach is considered by many analysts as the only alternative to the policies of radicalism (whether nationalistic or religious) and repression.

The task of evolving a viable regional "process" in the Middle East deserves to be supported. The objective is to deconstruct the major geo-strategic factors and analyse their interaction with each other on the one-hand, and their interrelationship with the different dimensions of security on the other.

It is a fact that the current crisis has widened the gaps between governments and people as well as between governments and governments. Within a new and viable security structure in the Middle East, people and their aspirations have to figure no less prominently than oil.

It is through the understanding and support of distinguished individuals and groups, as are gathered here this evening in your convention, that it is hoped that peace will be given a chance. The common values and ideas that we share with you provide the required solid foundation for peace, justice and prosperity in the Arab region and indeed throughout the many different parts of the globe.

Sweden donates \$14m for evacuees

AMMAN (Petra) — The government of Sweden has donated \$14 million to refugees in Jordan, including \$8 million for airlifting Asian refugees to their respective countries.

The Swedish government helped repatriate 1,925 Bangladeshis to Dhaka, in coordination with the International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Disaster Relief Organization.

Currently 6 flights are being organised from Amman to Bombay to repatriate Indian refugees.

"I lived in Jordan from 1975 to 1984, and from that time on I came to love this country, its people and their tradition," Longhi told the Jordan Times.

"If you come to love something you want other to share that love with you, and that is why I participated in writing this book. The book also carries a message

Book on Jordan — 'an act of friendship and love'

By Serene Recchia
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A new book about Jordan will appear on the shelves October 10. The book, a journey through Jordan in pursuit of the present, was written by Vladimir Rossi Longhi, wife of the former Italian ambassador to Jordan, and an Italian journalist, Giuseppe Recchia.

"This book has been written as an act of friendship and of love for Jordan and presented as fragments. Our intention is merely to suggest and to open the door for a better understanding, as a journey should appeal first of all to fantasy," the writers wrote in their introduction to the book.

"I lived in Jordan from 1975 to 1984, and from that time on I came to love this country, its people and their tradition," Longhi told the Jordan Times.

"We want the book to tell an honest and true account of Jordan. We want the world to come to know the truth about Jordan through this book not through the foreign media covering the Middle East," Recchia stressed.

During their stay in Jordan to write the book Recchia said that they were welcomed by all the people they came into contact with.

"The people were very hospitable and nice to us and helped us create a book intended for them and written by them," Recchia said. He also added that the book would serve as a way to communicate with the rest of the world. "When the fear of war passes, this book will encourage tourists to come and experience the beauty of this country," Recchia said.

The writers expressed their intention to meet with the Pope in order to get him to write a message of peace in the book. "Like the King of Jordan, the Pope works hard for his country and we would like the Pope to participate in this book that has been written with passion to the people of Jordan," Recchia said.

The book is written in Italian and will be translated into English. It will sell at a retail price of JD 13.

Jordanians rally against U.S. presence in Gulf but privately disapprove of Iraqi takeover

AMMAN (R) — Saddam Hussein stares out at Jordanians almost everywhere in Amman — from the back of buses and taxis, in groceries, public gardens and streets.

"He who has no country has no dignity," she said. "Death to us is better than a life of degradation... and Saddam has the power and strength to bring back our homes."

Diplomats believe at least 90 per cent of Jordanians support Saddam. "You can't deny the vigour and sincerity with which pro-Saddam views are held," said one Western diplomat.

"The reason why opinion is so polarised around an uncouth dictator is that nothing has been done for the Palestinians."

"Yes, we support Saddam wholly and

'Why do you not care?' pleads hostage in letter

IN a letter smuggled out of Kuwait a British financier makes a plea to the Prime Minister and the British people.

"I am a British male hostage, held against my will in Kuwait. My family, thank God, are safe in Britain, but presumably without definite news of me."

"For the past three weeks, like countless hundreds of others, I have been in hiding, never knowing if, or when, there will be a knock at the door. The tensions and stress are, at the best of times, unwelcomely present and, at the worst, unbearable."

"Like many hundreds of my fellow British, I ask the question of the British government and of the British people, 'why do you not care?'"

"We are fortunate that there is still substantial contact between British hostages and there is no doubt that all of us consider ourselves as forgotten and not cared about. And we ask this one simple question to the British government, 'what are you actually doing by sending forces?'"

"If the answer to this is enforcing U.N. sanctions and defending Saudi Arabia, et al,

from attack by Iraq,' then let us hear it clearly and unequivocally stated. Let us hear what Iraq has said is the key to the release of all hostages, namely that the USA, Britain, France etc. will not initiate hostilities against Iraq."

"If the real role of the various forces in the Gulf is to defend and/or to implement sanctions, then there is no earthly reason why each of the relevant Western nations cannot issue the undertakings to the safety of British people?"

"Many of us are in contact with Kuwaitis who did not run away. Many of those left behind are bravely and at some risk to themselves assisting Westerners in many ways... these people are bitter about those who ran away. The growing feeling here is that the Al Sabah family and the others who fled will not be welcomed back."

"It is not the position of a Briton, perhaps, to comment on their flight but Kuwaitis are asking how they managed to not only save themselves but also to pack personal possessions, secretaries, servants etc. as well. Any Kuwaiti is free to return, they are saying, so where are those who would

fight for their country?"

"None of us here disputes the fact that there has been a serious breach of international law and that such things cannot be tolerated. But this is not the Falklands. This is not a British — or anyone else's — possession to be won back."

"This is Kuwait, an Arab country and it is for the Arabs to solve the problem. Defend Saudi Arabia by all means but be fully aware that restoration of the status quo in Kuwait means the restoration of a little-liked bunch of totally self-centred and, by British standards, totally corrupt multi-billionaires to a position where they could continue to line their pockets even more."

"As hostages, in hiding, frightened, in some cases sick and, to a man, disgusted with the attitudes prevailing, we ask the British people to consider all the realities and to help us."

"Please, make your protest and make it loud and strong. Yes, stand up for what is right and decent but play straight and stop the British government pandering to every request of the President of the United States — *Guardian Weekly*.

LETTERS

Enough feeble excuses

To the Editor:

Occupation by American forces of our holy lands in Najd and Hijaz under the pretext of providing defence for Saudi Arabia in the face of alleged Iraqi aggression is a feeble excuse. The false claim was exposed by the U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in his Sept. 5 statement before Congress when he said that the presence of American troops in Saudi Arabia will last for a long time, and that the United States should now work out the structure of a new security order for the region. He said that the United States has to play a role in this order, and so American forces' presence must be permanent. With this statement, Baker has thus revealed the real objectives of the imperialistic conspiracy directed against the Arab people, and exposed the false U.S. claims, justifying the deployment of U.S. troops in the Arab region.

Let us raise our voices in protest against the U.S. presence in Mecca.

Let us raise our voices in protest against the embargo which is depriving our children and people of milk and food, and our sick people of medicine.

Let us raise our voices so that our Arab lands can remain united and free.

Manal Younes Abdul Razzak
President of the Iraqi Women Federation.

A line in the sand

To the Editor:

I have just returned from the United States of America, where people are not as "united" as one may think, and certainly not 100 per cent behind President Bush, as the media would have us believe. There are various points of view regarding the "big manoeuvre" and drawing a line in the sand!

Upon returning to Amman I found a letter awaiting me which expresses the thoughts of many. My friend is highly educated, sophisticated, aware and intelligent. I know she will not mind if I quote the exact words.

"I am thinking about you and your family in that awful situation. May God protect all of you.

"I think (they) we should return all our servicemen and send, instead, the Bush administration, the Congress of the U.S., the crooks in the Savings and Loan scandal, the Defence Dept., the lobbyists, the oil companies, (executives), and the Aerospace (executives) companies, and let them confront the Iraqi military. The conflict would last about 30 minutes. The whole thing is a disgrace, perpetrated by a bunch of hypocritical bastards to increase our defence spending, thereby, making the oil barons and the Aerospace bandits even richer.

"I feel so helpless and angry that a few can do so much damage to so many."

May God protect all of us. Let us pray for peace.

Peggy Abu Jaber
Amman

Iraq renews warning

(Continued from page 1)

move to maintain Iraq's features and resources and improve them in order to achieve the well-known noble objectives."

It also condemned the decision by the United Nations, strongly urged by Washington, to impose an international economic embargo on Iraq and Kuwait.

"America is committing deep criminal acts against Iraq and the Arab Nation, especially in occupying the Arab and Muslim holy places in Najd and Hejaz (Saudi Arabia), and in its sanctions imposed against the Iraqi people in a way that exceeds all humanitarian limits," it said.

"America did all this to satisfy its arrogance and enforce its hegemony on the entire world," the statement said.

"America must not go too far and must get out of its mind the idea of pushing events into a military collision, and it must realise the dangers of what it calls a lightning strike," it said.

It urged the United States and other foreign powers to drop "the language of threats" and work instead for a "climate of understanding."

But it insisted it would not accept any settlement to the Gulf crisis unless based on Iraq's Aug. 12 peace initiative in which it linked a solution in Kuwait to an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

"America must realise clearly that it is pushing the entire region, and not only Iraq — in fact, even the whole world, foremost of which its sons whom (U.S. President George) Bush brought to the region — to the brink of a bottomless abyss, from which the region will never see light for dozens of years," it said.

On Friday, Saddam urged the Iraqi people to steel themselves for war and vowed there was no retreat from the Gulf crisis.

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Chinese girl wins first gold medal of 1990 Asian Games

PEKING (AP) — A 44-kilogram (97-pound) Chinese girl, lifting a barbell of more than twice her weight, won the first gold medal of the 1990 Asian Games Sunday and surpassed a world record.

China was expected to go on and snare the biggest share of the 308 golds at stake in the 16-day games.

Xing Fen, 17, the world champion in the 44-kilogram division of women's weightlifting, lifted 70 kilograms (154 pounds) in the snatch and 95 (209 pounds) in the clean and jerk for a total of 165 (363 pounds).

The clean and jerk surpassed the world record of 92.5 kilograms (203.5 pounds) she set last year in Manchester, England, and the total tied her world mark. The International Weightlifting Federation, however, does not recognize records not set at world meets.

Women's weightlifting is making its Asian Games debut. Xing's lift thus became automatic games records.

Japan's Satomi Saito was second with a total of 145 kilograms (319 pounds). India's N. Kunjarani won the bronze medal.

With 140 kilograms (308 pounds).

China also has the world record holders in the 48-and 52-kilogram divisions, whose gold medals were being decided later Sunday.

Also being decided on the first day of competition were four gold medals in swimming and one in men's team gymnastics.

In preliminary swimming heats, three games records fell in four events. Chinese swimmers set two of the marks and Japan had one.

China's Zhuang Yong set a record of 55.57 seconds in the women's 100-metre freestyle, and teammate Li Lin set a mark of 4 minutes, 50.12 seconds in the women's 400-metre individual medley.

Two Japanese — Nobuyuki Kawaguchi and Kenji Watanabe — tied for fastest qualifier in the men's 100-metre breaststroke heats in an identical record-breaking time of 1:03.37.

Nearly 4,700 athletes from 37 nations are expected to battle in 27 sports in these games, which formally opened Saturday without Iraq — expelled for its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

In swimming, the question is whether Japan, which has lost its position as Asia's dominant overall sports power, can continue to reign in the pool.

The Japanese won 17 of the 29 swimming golds in the 1986 games, when China won 10.

Political rivals North and South Korea and China and Taiwan meet each other Sunday in the opening women's softball games. North Korea is returning to the games after boycotting the 1986 games in Seoul and the 1984 and 1988 Olympics.

Taiwan is back after a longer absence. It last competed in 1970, as the Republic of China, but after Peking's entry it was sidelined by a dispute over its use of the name China. It competes now under the name "Chinese Taipei."

Competition also begins Sunday in women's field hockey, yachting, Greco-Roman wrestling, basketball, men's soccer, rowing and men's volleyball.

Track and field action does not start until Thursday.

In the last games, with 270 golds at stake, China edged South Korea 94 to 93 for the top spot. Japan was third with 58.

Samaranch: IOC has no plans to expel Iraq

PEKING (AP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has no immediate plans to deal with Iraq over its invasion of Kuwait, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said Sunday.

The committee will hide its time and hope that events in the Middle East have calmed by the time the next Olympics are held in 1992, Samaranch said at a news conference.

The former Spanish diplomat said he was hopeful of a solution to the military standoff in the Gulf within six weeks but stressed that was based only on a personal impression of events. He would not be more specific.

Last Thursday, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) suspended Iraq and barred it from participating in the Asian Games, which opened two days later. There were fears that Iraqi participation could have led to a boycott by about a quarter of the 37 other members.

Samaranch said the IOC stood by the OCA decision. But he also said that the Asian council was forced to act quickly and that the IOC had time on its side.

"We solve the problems when

they are on the table," he said. "The next Olympic Games don't begin until July 1992, and we hope the problem by then will be solved."

The IOC chief said neither he nor other committee officials had heard one word from Baghdad since the Asian Council vote.

Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2 and later announced it was annexing the territory. Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, a member of the Kuwaiti royal family who also was an IOC member and OCA president, was killed in the fighting. His successor as council president will be elected Thursday.

Kuwaiti athletes abroad at the time of the invasion continued to work out and are competing here as a team in exile.

The IOC said last week it would continue to recognise the Kuwaiti National Olympic Committee, now headed by Sheikh Fahd's son.

Here for the Asian Games, Samaranch again praised China's efforts and urged on their plans to bid for the 2000 Olympics if the current event is successful.

Kaiserslautern knocks jittery Bayren off top

BONN (R) — A seven-goal spree by Kaiserslautern and a spectacular late equaliser from Bochum's Thorsten Legat combined to knock defending champions Bayern Munich off the top of the West German first division.

Kaiserslautern took over the lead in the Bundesliga with a magnificent 7-3 win at Bayer Leverkusen, 1-0 winners over Karlsruhe, also have 11 points but lie third with an inferior goal difference.

Real Madrid keeps pressure with win over Zaragoza

ZARAGOZA, Spain (R) — Champions Real Madrid maintained their improved form in the Spanish Soccer League when they beat bottom-placed Real Zaragoza 3-1. Goals from Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, full back Miguel Tendillo and Romanian Gheorghe Hagi sent Zaragoza to their fourth defeat in as many matches. Real Madrid now have

Beardsley scoring goals as Liverpool marches on

LONDON (R) — Peter Beardsley, struggling to hold down a regular place in Liverpool's star-studded side, has responded in the best way possible — with lots of goals.

But such is Liverpool's strength that nothing is certain for Beardsley. "Nobody at this club is guaranteed a first team place," he said recently.

If five goal in two games are not enough to convince manager Kenny Dalglish he cannot afford to leave the darting striker out of the side, nothing else will, say the Beardsley supporters.

He was dropped from Liverpool's first two away games this season, but his hat-trick in last week's 4-0 thrashing of Manchester United meant Dalglish played him at Everton Saturday.

Beardsley scored two more goals in the champions' 3-2 win which maintained both their 100 per cent record and four-point lead at the top of the table after six games.

Their 2-0 win was followed Saturday with a 3-2 victory at home to Southampton which lifted them to third in the table, five points behind the leaders.

Tottenham were held to a 1-1 draw by Crystal Palace, who lost the F.A. Cup final to United and are the surprise package of the new season.

His brace at Goodison made him the leading scorer in Britain with seven from four games — two more than England team mate John Barnes who scored for the fourth consecutive game Saturday.

His tally is just three short of his total for last season, but Beardsley, who has also been in and out of the England side with the regularity of the tide on the Mersey, accepts he is just part of a squad at Anfield.

The championship is unfolding into a predictable procession, with Arsenal the only side showing the consistency required to push Liverpool.

Palace, fifth and a place below Tottenham on goal difference, looked to be heading for their first defeat of the season before Geoff Thomas equalised with 10 minutes remaining.

Gascogne had given Spurs the lead direct from a free kick with his fifth goal of the season, two minutes before half-time.

Palace, fifth and a place below

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Economy

Soviet Union faces disaster from radical programme'

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, deadlocked on how to reform its economy, faces disaster and disintegration if it adopts a radical programme, the most senior government economist said in an interview published Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Leonid Abalkin told the newspaper *Sovetskaya Rossiya* that adoption of the radical approach favoured by President Mikhail Gorbachev would fail to revive the economy and weaken the will to introduce a market-based system.

Speaking ahead of key parliamentary votes on the economy, Abalkin attacked the leadership of the largest Soviet republic for approving the "500-day plan" which would strip the Kremlin of much power and establish market mechanisms by late 1992.

The giant Russian Federation, led by the popular Boris Yeltsin, is preparing to implement the plan, which Abalkin described as "essentially based on recognition of the liquidation of the USSR as a state."

The national parliament, the Supreme Soviet, is due to vote on a similar programme Monday. But it faces stiff opposition from Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov and his camp of moderate reformers.

Abalkin, one of the authors of Ryzhkov's more cautious set of economic proposals, said the country was on the edge of an abyss. "Any imprudent step could push us over."

Abalkin believes the government will resign if the radical approach is adopted. Radicals have been asking Ryzhkov to step down for weeks.

President Mikhail Gorbachev, increasingly frustrated by parliament's indecision but anxious to avoid a government shake-up, has called for compromise. He has also asked for sweeping powers to push through reforms by decree.

Yeltsin, bruised in a car accident last week but bracing for confrontation with Gorbachev, has vowed to resist any extension of the already considerable presidential powers.

Poor states demand aid and debt relief to ease Gulf crisis

WASHINGTON (R) — Developing nations urged rich Western creditors Saturday to help poor states hardest hit by the Gulf crisis by increasing cut-rate loans and reducing the burden of existing debt.

Ministers from the Group of 24 (G-24) developing nations, who met Saturday to coordinate Third World strategy ahead of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank annual talks this week, agreed on a broad package of demands to help them cope with higher oil prices and expected slower world growth.

"They wish to see more relief of debt... from the creditors and more assistance from the fund," said Iranian central bank governor Sayyed Mohammad Hosseini Adeli.

Developing nations want the World Bank to increase low-interest rate loans and say both the bank and IMF should be more ready to hand out the money to those in need.

But Adeli, who chaired the G-24 meeting, added, "there is not a question of creating any special fund at the moment."

G-24 ministers listed in a communiqué the economic costs that many developing nations would suffer as a consequence of the Gulf crisis.

They included rising import bills caused by spiralling oil prices, the high cost of resettling workers returning from the Gulf, a reduction in migrant workers' remittances and the loss of exports following the United Nations economic embargo against Iraq.

It said the World Bank and fund should try to persuade rich countries to provide loans and debt relief, especially to those countries most immediately affected by the crisis, which followed Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

Adeli said the G-24 had not defined exactly which nations would be hurt first, but said the group could extend beyond the so-called front-line states of Egypt, Turkey and Jordan.

Bahrain's exports, imports fall

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's exports in the second quarter of 1990 were down to 237 million dinars (\$629 million) against 268.8 million dinars (\$713 million) at the end of first quarter.

Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) figures show that oil income was 182 million dinars (\$483 million) in the same period against 220.1 million dinars (\$584 million) for the first quarter of 1990.

World Bank economists have calculated that even with oil prices under \$30 per barrel — current prices are around \$35 — the economies of 60 developing countries would be severely affected.

In an analysis of the crisis, they said that an average 1991 crude price of \$29 would lose oil-importing developing countries nearly one per cent of their gross domestic product next year — the equivalent of \$30 billion.

Poor nations would be hurt both directly by higher oil prices and by high world interest rates as industrial economies try to curb the inflationary impact of more expensive fuel.

The Group of Seven (G-7) richest countries, which also met in Washington Saturday, confirmed they would keep monetary policy steady to combat the Gulf crisis.

Developing nations fear their debt bill will grow even further if the G-7 raises interest rates.

G-24 ministers said creditors should cancel debts, or offer very cheap fresh loans, to the most debt-strapped low-income countries.

The G-24 warned creditors not to decide that oil producers needed less help with their debts because of the latest surge in crude prices. Oil producers could suffer a severe liquidity squeeze once prices decline again.

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus last week suggested oil producers use windfall profits from surging crude prices to help developing countries.

"Many of these countries have their own problems," said Adeli. "If we think of the oil producing countries, there are some that are stranded right in the region where the present crisis has created lots of problems for them."

The figures do not necessarily reflect living standards. Prices are lower in the United States than in Japan, for example, and the average American enjoys more living space, a bigger car and a lot more meat than the average Japanese.

Part but not all of the difference was due to the low value of the dollar on world exchanges, a bank spokesman said.

Nevertheless, it found figures for the years 1987-9 an improvement over the 1980s as a whole.

About 2.4 billion lived in countries where incomes were growing. They included China, where the average rose to \$60 from the previous year's \$30, and India where the increase was from \$340 to \$350. China with 1,105 million people and India with 832 million

were the world's two most populous countries.

The bank called Asia's performance in the 1980s exceptional. It found 2.9 billion people, more than half the world's population, in countries where the average was less than \$500, in those countries only about 56 per cent of the people knew how to read.

About 830 million lived in countries where the average income was higher than \$6,000 and their literacy rate was over 95 per cent.

"For those economies with life expectancy at birth of less than 50 years, the (individual) income averaged \$280," the report concluded. "For economies in which life expectancy was more than 73 years, the average... income is around \$16,000."

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Cambodian government accepts Sihanouk's compromise offer

PHNOM PENH (R) — Prime Minister Hun Sen has accepted a power-sharing deal proposed by his rival Prince Norodom Sihanouk for Cambodia's new Supreme National Council (SNC), a Foreign Ministry source said.

The leader of the Phnom Penh government was willing to go along with seating Sihanouk, titular head of a three-party guerrilla coalition, as chairman of the council, provided Phnom Penh was given another vote, the source said Saturday night.

Three days of talks in Bangkok this week between the Phnom Penh government and the guerrillas collapsed over the issue of how to seat Sihanouk as chairman of the council.

The coalition wanted Sihanouk to take a 13th place at the conference table, at which each side currently holds six seats.

On Friday, Sihanouk proposed that he be elected chairman and that Phnom Penh be given an extra vote.

The SNC is a key element of a U.N. Security Council plan to bring peace to Cambodia, riven

by 11 years of civil war.

It is supposed to negotiate a ceasefire and then represent Cambodian sovereignty while the United Nations virtually takes over the country before elections.

Hun Sen's acceptance of Sihanouk's plan appeared to clear the way for the SNC to meet again soon to discuss sending a unified delegation to the U.N. General Assembly and to start talks on a ceasefire.

There were other signs the Cambodian capital over the weekend that peace efforts might be about to intensify.

On Saturday, Phnom Penh radio reported that Hor Nam Hong, a close associate of Hun Sen, had been appointed foreign minister. Hun Sen had been handling his government's foreign relations himself.

The appointment was made "to ease the duty of comrade Hun Sen".

Hor Nam Hong is a professional diplomat who held ambassadorships both with the radical Khmer Rouge when they ran the country between 1975 and 1979

and with the Phnom Penh government installed by the Vietnamese after they drove out the Khmer Rouge.

He was the Khmer Rouge's ambassador to Cuba and the Vietnam-backed government's envoy to Poland, Mongolia and the Soviet Union.

An informed source said Hun Sen was preparing to return to Bangkok soon, another indication the peace process might be speeding up.

The Phnom Penh government and the guerrillas have come under increasing international pressure, especially from the superpowers, to put an end to their fighting.

The guerrilla alliance is made up of the Khmer Rouge, responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during their rule, and two smaller, less powerful armies loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann and Sihanouk.

Hun Sen angrily blamed Sihanouk for the collapse of the Bangkok talks, the first meeting of the

SNC, calling the former monarch "a threat to the peace process." The view in Phnom Penh appeared to soften afterwards.

"Sihanouk is like the British weather," another Foreign Ministry source said. "One minute it is sunshine, the next rain, the next snow."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chum Bun Rong said the Khmer Rouge delegation had been unusually friendly during the Bang-ko meeting.

"The Khmer Rouge showed their softened position to us this time in Bangkok," he said. "They even smiled at us and asked us how we were."

Many senior officials of the Phnom Penh government, including Hun Sen himself, are former Khmer Rouge fighters.

Chum Bun Rong said fighting had eased in recent weeks as peace talks continued in Jakarta and later in Bangkok.

"The activity of the enemy seems to be reduced," he said. "There is more safety than before."

Bhutto ordered to answer charges in court

LAHORE, Pakistan (Agencies) — Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was ordered Sunday to appear before a special court to answer charges that could result in her being barred from next month's elections.

Justice Rashid Aziz Khan ordered Bhutto to appear in court on Oct. 2 to answer charges involving the sale of a luxury hotel and golf course in Islamabad.

Bhutto has not said whether she will appear, but the order setting up several one-judge courts to try members of the sacked government says any case can be settled without the accused being present.

The hotel case is at the centre of the interim government's efforts to prove that Bhutto and her former ministers abused their powers during their 20 months in office.

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan levelled numerous charges against Bhutto and her colleagues when he sacked her government on Aug. 6 and ordered fresh elections for Oct. 24.

The government, in its first major listing of charges since the sacking, told the Lahore High Court Saturday that Bhutto had diverted millions of dollars meant for intelligence gathering to buying the votes of opposition dissidents.

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